

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 15, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,272, Amendment to the specification and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 14, line 1, page 15, line 19, page 18, lines 7 and 35, and page 23, line 1 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that at least two printhead integrated circuits are adhesively supported by the support member which is elongate. Support for this amendment can be found at page 7, line 9-page 9, line 9 and page 9, line 30-page 10, line 14 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-11 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objection

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objections

With respect to the words "millimetres" and "micrometres" used in pending claim 7, the Examiner is respectfully reminded that under MPEP §608.01 objection to the specification and/or claims should not be made merely because British English spellings are used rather than American English spellings.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles 50, which each support two or more printhead integrated circuits 51, arranged on an elongate fluid channel member 40. The tiles are adhered to the fluid channel member so as to ensure sealed fluid communication of printing fluid from the channel member to the printhead integrated circuits whilst providing for easy replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length (see page 7, line 9-page 9, line 9 and page 9, line 30-page 10, line 14 of the present specification). Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify this arrangement of the present invention.

On the other hand, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly 10 in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 mounted to a support molding 26,28. Each module is clipped, using clips 44 into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. The channels 72 of each support molding merely link the associated chip with longitudinal channels 80 in the reservoir molding, and are not themselves longitudinal channels in an elongate support member as required by amended independent claim 1. This disclosed arrangement of Silverbrook et al. allows individual removal of each module from the reservoir molding (see col. 2, lines 2-53 and col. 4, line 40-col. 5, line 23 of Silverbrook et al.).

Thus, Silverbrook et al. does not disclose a printhead module comprising more than one printhead chip with each chip adhesively mounted to the reservoir molding via the support molding, as is required by amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook et al. does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook et al. specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the clipping in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al..

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

Silverbrook et al. in view of Silverbrook (WO 2001/089849)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook et al. in view of Silverbrook, for at least the following reasons.

Silverbrook merely discloses a single laminated stack 11 which mounts several print chips 27 to an ink distribution molding 35 by being sealingly bonded to the molding (see pages 5 and 7 of Silverbrook).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al. either taken alone or in combination with Silverbrook.

Silverbrook et al. in view of Lu et al. (US 2003/0007042)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 11 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of Lu, for at least the following reasons.

Lu merely discloses a reciprocating printhead 2,10 (see paragraphs [0001]-[0003] and [0013] of Lu), not a pagewidth, modular printhead assembly. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated from the disclosure of Silverbrook et al. to use the adhesive disclosed by Lu to attach the modules to the reservoir molding, since Lu discloses that the adhesive is used to securely bond the ink cartridge elements to the cartridge body (see paragraphs [0016] and [0021] of Lu), which would destroy the removability of the modules disclosed by Silverbrook et al.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-11 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook et al. either taken alone or in combination with Lu.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1-11 over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/760,272, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,272 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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